Relief to plantation sector

2040. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala exempted the plantations from payment of agriculture income tax for the year 2003-2004 to provide relief to plantation sectors;

(b) whether Government would consider to exempt coffee and tea plantations from excise duty and direct the public sector banks to reschedule the loans;

(c) whether Government would consider to introduce a package of assistance to the plantation sector and its labourers; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The issue will be examined as part of forthcoming Budget exercise.

Supply of gas to Pipavav Project

2041. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allocate 2.25 MMSCMD gas to Pipavav Power Project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to allocate additional quantity of gas at *prorata* basis to Power Sector without any diversion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Gas Linkage Committee in its meeting held on 26.5.2000 approved an